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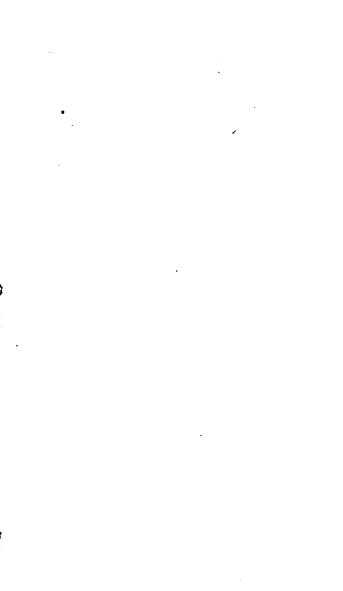
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THE HISTORY

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## ACKWORTH SCHOOL.

Be it a weakness, it deserves some praise, We love the play-place of our early days; The scene is touching, and the heart is stone, That feels not at that sight, and feels at none. COWPER.

#### ACKWORTH:

PUBLISHED BY GEO. F. LINNEY. YORK: JAMES HUNTON. LONDON: W. AND F. G. CASH. 1853.

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#### THE HISTORY

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### ACKWORTH SCHOOL.

Ackworth School! what powerful and tender emotions—what a lengthened train of thrilling associations are called forth, as by a magic spell, at the utterance of that name, in the hearts of thousands of those who were once inmates within its walls, but are now scattered, up and down in the land, far and wide, upon the face of the earth.

Ackworth School is the only national seminary of the Society of Friends; it has furnished to upwards of 7,000 of its youth no unimportant portion of their education, and having now attained to venerable age, and passed its threescore years and ten, it asks the pen of the narrator, to tell its history and its success. In the life of Sarah Grubb, published some 60 years ago, we find an interesting notice of the establishment and object of the school, and of its then existing internal economy; and a graphic sketch of later date has appeared from the pen of William Howitt, in one of his own works; but it is not a little remarkable, that notwithstanding the

lively and increasing interest which is manifested in this Institution, throughout that Society, which claims it as its own, no distinct publication records its origin, or tells the story of its life. To this duty

we purpose to devote the following pages.

Ackworth is a neat agricultural village, situate about three miles from Pontefract, and closely bordering on the great Yorkshire manufactories. It is so completely removed from any great line of road, either of the old system or the new, that but for the world-wide celebrity it has obtained in the Society of Friends from its association with their school, it is probable that, at least as it regards them, it would have slumbered in undisturbed repose amidst the well cultivated acres by which it is surrounded.

The parish of Ackworth includes the three villages of High Ackworth, Low Ackworth, and Ackworth Moor-top; and almost in the centre of these, stands the noble pile of buildings occupied by the Friends' School, forming a little town of At the last census each of the villages numbered about 500 inhabitants, and the school 333. The building was originally designed as a branch of the great Foundling Hospital in London: it consists of a centre facing the south, with two wings at right angles with it, connected by circular colonnades, thus forming three sides of a spacious quadrangle, of 14 acres in area, and having a garden and orchard of five acres, extending forward in front. The structure was commenced in the year 1757, and proceeded slowly during several following years. The east, (now the boys',) wing being raised the first, the centre next, and lastly the west wing, now

appropriated to the girls. The erection cost about £13.000. As a foundling hospital, it continued to receive the helpless objects of its care till 1773: but, benevolent as was the design, it was based on a fundamental error, and, as a natural consequence, it failed. Disease and death carried off great numbers annually; starvation, and even murder, on the part of nurses who had the care of the infants, and of masters to whom the elder children were apprenticed, added to the mortality; and, though the evidence is abundant of the untiring efforts of the directors to care for the children whilst in the hospital, and to protect their rights after they were apprenticed, evils and oppressions, unnumbered and insurmountable, paralyzed their exertions, and the establishment was given up. Sir Rowland Winn of Nostell Priory, an indefatigable labourer in the work, visited the present school soon after its opening, when the boys happened to be at dinner; and observing their healthy and happy faces, his feelings were overpowered, and, affected to tears, he exclaimed, "Why could not we have our children as happy and healthy as these?" After the building was vacated by the Foundlings, it remained void for several years; various attempts were made to dispose of it; once it appeared on the eve of becoming a lunatic asylum, at another time of being sold and taken down for the materials; and for this object, it is said, that the bargain was all but struck. At this idea the Rector of Ackworth, Dr. Timothy Lee, who took a deep interest in the hospital, expressed great uneasiness. "It will be a shame," says he, "to pull it down," for he adds, "the buildings are so strong, and [well] constructed,

that they might be converted into a palace for a nabob, or a barrack for a regiment; the centre building, with the offices, would make a most magnificent mansion." The advertisements, inserted in the newspapers of the day, shadow forth its present appropriation as an "academy;" the mode in which as a mansion the apartments might be arranged, are set forth in attractive language:—the entrance hall, the drawing and dining rooms, the billiard room, the library, the steward's room, the butler's pantry, &c. &c. are severally provided;—but all to no purpose. Year after year elapsed and the spacious hall was still unoccupied and unsold.

In 1777, Dr. John Fothergill, an eminent physician of London, and a man of much influence in the Society of Friends, travelling in Yorkshire, and hearing that the property was to be disposed of, conferred with a few of his fellow members, interested with himself in the establishment of a national boarding school, on the propriety of becoming the purchasers. They would gladly have waited till the recurrence of the London Yearly Meeting of the Society, but by so doing the opportunity might be lost; and therefore, with a boldness and decision worthy of their object, they made the purchase on their own responsibility. The hospital and premises, with eighty-four acres of land surrounding it, were bought for £7,000. This important transaction was laid before the Society at its annual meeting in 1778, and was fully approved; -the offer was made and accepted to transfer the property to trustees, appointed by the Yearly Meeting, and thus, under the most

encouraging auspices, the present Institution was established.

This was, however, but a peculiar form of outward manifestation, the visible embodiment of a great idea, which, from the days of George Fox had possessed the heart of the Society, and of later years had been continually gathering strength, and gradually developing itself. We must therefore pause for a few moments in our narrative, to inquire what previous attention had been paid to the subject of the education of their children by the Society of Friends.\*

It is well known to those who are familiar with the history of the Society, that the first forty years of its existence as a distinct religious community, was a period of grievous and almost continuous persecution; at the same time the zeal of its members in preaching, and their labour in disseminating their views of Gospel truth were abundant and untiring. It would therefore have been no marvel if, under such pressing and painful circumstances, the education of the children had been greatly overlooked; such however is not the fact. The minds of George Fox and his principal coadjutors, were of no ordinary calibre; thoroughly comprehensive was the discipline they established for the government and order of the society they had been the means of

<sup>\*</sup>We would here acknowledge that we are largely indebted, in this part of our subject, to a series of valuable Essays "On the Past Proceedings and Experience of the Society of Friends, in connection with the Education of Youth," read by Samuel Tuke at the Meetings of the Friends' Educational Society, in 1838, and several following years. They are well worthy of attentive perusal.

gathering together: and in their arrangements they distinctly recognised the duty of a Christian church to secure for its youth, as far as possible, a religious, moral and intellectual education. Religious training naturally took the first place in the consideration of those who had united together under a strong sense of the paramount value of true religion; and abundant is the testimony furnished by the early biography of Friends, of the exercise of this training, and of its beneficial influence.

It was in 1647 that George Fox entered upon his remarkable ministerial career; and though many in various parts speedily embraced the doctrines he preached, it was several years before a regularly constituted society could be said to exist; yet so early as 1656 he thus addresses Friends: "Exhort all your families, at times and seasons, whether they be servants or children, that they may be informed in the Truth. For when ye were professors, many of you did exhort them in the form, when ye had not the power; and therefore, now being brought into the Truth, ye should be more diligent to exhort, admonish and instruct them." "Highly as George Fox valued that work on the human heart which is not of man, no one recognized more fully than he did the value of instrumental agency in the divine economy, and especially in the work of education. The duty of parents to give direct religious instruction to their children, to restrain them from evil, to example them in good and in the fear of God, to maintain outward discipline in families, are frequent subjects of earnest exhortation in his letters. No one, however, was further from the notion that the work of moral

training consisted entirely in the exclusion of evil from without; as if there were no germs and shoots of evil in the minds of children, which required constant care and attention; and the growth of which, nothing short of divine grace could effec-

tually repress."

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"It would not have been surprising if the religious and moral department of the subject of education, had been the only one which occupied the particular attention of George Fox; but it was otherwise. In the year 1667, in the midst of various trials and persecutions, he mentions in his Journal that he had recommended the establishment of two boarding schools, one for boys, and one for girls, in the neighbourhood of London, for the purpose of instructing them "in all things, civil and useful in the This brief, but comprehensive phrase, creation." is worthy of his large and enlightened mind. It was designed, we believe, to include every branch and department of knowledge which can shed any truly beneficial rays on the condition of man. was, doubtless, intended to exclude every thing which merely ministered to his pride, or was, in any way, inimical to the letter and spirit of genuine Christianity." "The proposed schools were forthwith established; that for boys at Waltham, and that for girls at Shacklewell. It appears that much consideration took place as to the methods of teaching which should be adopted at Waltham: there is no doubt that the scheme of education in this school embraced the ancient and modern lan-The head master was Christopher Taylor, a man of learning and talents, who had been an eminent minister of the Episcopal church, and held in very high esteem. A pious German, of good learning, and a convert to the new doctrines, was a teacher in the school."

By a memorandum, still preserved amongst the records of the Society, in London there appear to have been at least fifteen boarding schools kept by Friends in the country in 1671, and it is probable that the list is not a complete one. In 1695, in the Yearly Meeting's printed Epistle, Friends are advised that schoolmasters and mistresses, who are faithful Friends, and well qualified, be encouraged in all counties, cities, or other places, where there may be need; and that care be taken that poor Friends' children may freely partake of such education as may tend to their benefit and advantage, in order to apprenticeship. Those engaged in teaching are advised to "correspond with one another for their help and improvement in subjects belonging to their profession."

It would be extremely interesting and instructive, and quite appropriate to our subject, to trace minutely the progress of the Society's labours in the great work of education, but our limits forbid; and we can only refer briefly to the almost uninterrupted attention which was paid by the Yearly Meeting to the question during the first half of the 18th century. The great burden of these minutes is "a godly care for the good education of children in the fear, nurture, and admonition of the Lord, in the frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in sobriety, modesty, and plainness of habit and speech;" yet they say, "we deny nothing for children's learning that may be honest and useful for them to know, whether relating to divine principles,

or that may be outwardly serviceable for them to learn in regard to the outward creation;" from which they desire that no poor Friends' children may be excluded. In 1712 they exhort "all parents of children to be very careful to educate and train them up in the fear of God, and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, according to the holy Scriptures." In 1737, instruction of the youth in some of the modern languages is recommended by a minute of the Yearly Meeting. 1751 Monthly Meetings were desired "to assist young men of low circumstances, whose genius and conduct may be suitable for the office of schoolmaster, with the means requisite to obtain the proper qualification; and when so qualified afford them the necessary encouragement for their support." But without multiplying quotations, we think it is evident, from the whole tenour of these minutes, that during this period a deep concern rested upon the minds of the most prominent members of the Society, in regard to the right education of youth. "The forming of true Christian character is ever the first thing, and indeed the one thing respecting which they are anxious; but in forming the character of the Christian man, they do not overlook his social and animal being, and they are anxious for his acquisition of whatever arts and sciences may, in these respects, improve his condition, by fitting him for the better performance of his duties and the supply of his wants."

The period had now arrived when that earnest movement became manifest in the Society, which led eventually to the establishment of Ackworth School, and to the public boarding school system amongst Friends in this kingdom, which may be said to have sprung out of it. As our history of the Institution would be altogether incomplete without some reference to the labours of those good men, who may be justly entitled the founders of the school, we must claim indulgence, if we detain our readers still longer from the detail of those circumstances, which belong more especially to its existence.

In 1758 the Yearly Meeting concluded to take some more decided steps for providing for the in-struction of the offspring of Friends in learning and knowledge suitable to their station, and apart from the influence of corrupt communication and bad example; and directed reports as to the number and nature of the schools then existing to be forwarded to London. These reports, which it is much to be regretted have not been found, were presented to the following Yearly Meeting, and the state of education in the Society, as exhibited by them, was weightily considered, the subject being at length referred to the Meeting for Sufferings\* to prepare a plan for more effectually encouraging the establishment of schools. The report which was presented, entered into the serious difficulties which lay in the way of the object the Society had at heart—the fewness of well qualified teachers the inadequacy of remuneration to those engaged

<sup>\*</sup> The Meeting for Sufferings is a standing Committee of the Yearly Meeting. It was established in the days of persecution, when its chief business related to the relief of Friends under suffering in person and estate, from which circumstance it took its name.

in the work—the early withdrawal of children to business or labour. To obviate these and other difficulties specified, a variety of suggestions were offered, including one for establishing a school near London, for the education of Friends' children in the various branches of learning and useful science. A training establishment and increased remuneration of teachers, were also prominent topics of the report, and subscriptions were recommended for these objects. "All this labour, however, appears to have been fruitless of any very obvious results. Ignorance, there is reason to believe, was but too prevalent in many parts, especially in the rural districts, where the members of the Society were at that time very numerous; and it has long been observed that the desire for knowledge is usually in the inverse proportion of its need." Perseverance did not relax; and where this is manifested in a right cause, eventual success is certain. Year after year the subject was revived in the Yearly Meeting, and it made steady, though slow, progress. We shall not stop to remark on the labours of York Quarterly Meeting in the work, though with it originated the first idea of a boarding school for the northern counties; but shall proceed at once to trace the development of those measures, which were eventually adopted by the Yearly Meeting for carrying out its own views.

In 1777 that meeting recorded its judgment that the establishment of boarding schools for the education of children whose parents were not in affluence would be advantageous, and referred a plan for effecting the object to the Meeting for Sufferings to mature. "Now we have the head

determining to act for the body, and a specific idea governing the mode of action." The subject was again resumed at the Yearly Meeting of 1778, when, as we have already seen, Dr. Fothergill announced the purchase he and his friends had made, and offered to assign it to the Society. A large committee, consisting of one Friend out of every county, and a number of London Friends, and open to any member who inclined to be present, was appointed to take the whole matter into consideration; its meetings were largely attended; the subject was fully explained, and enquiries and doubts answered to general satisfaction.

The report of the Committee, recommending the acceptance of Dr. Fothergill's offer, and that a liberal subscription should be immediately commenced to make good the purchase, was adopted by the Yearly Meeting. Friends generally entered with great cordiality into the project, and seemed to vie with each other in their generous efforts, Donations to the amount of £6,965, and subscriptions for annuities, amounting to £3,100 are stated in the report of 1780 as having been received.

It was agreed that the house should be opened as soon as possible for the reception of 300 children of both sexes, under the title of Ackworth School. The scheme of education is thus briefly stated:—"It is proposed that the principles we profess be diligently inculcated, and due care taken to preserve the children from bad habits, and immoral conduct. That the English language, writing, and arithmetic, be carefully

taught to both sexes; and that the girls be also instructed in housewifery, and useful needlework." Thus the long cherished hopes of the indefatigable labourers in the good work were on the point of realization, and Dr. Fothergill, as the leader in it, participated largely in their joy. In the 1st mo., 1779, the Doctor addressed a letter to a Friend in the country, explanatory of the nature and objects of the new institution: the letter is so admirable a prospectus of the establishment, and contains so much valuable matter, that we reluctantly curtail it, but a few extracts must suffice. After alluding to the abundant care and endeavours which had been used for the education of Friends' children, he says: "We have many schools for the education of youth amongst us, and many very deserving schoolmasters in various parts of this nation, where the children of those who are in affluent circumstances, receive a competent share of learning; and that those who are of less ability may partake of the like benefit, is the object of the present institution;" again, "It is agreed, that as the school is intended for the education, maintenance, and clothing of children, whose parents are not in affluence, that they be instructed in reading, writing, and accounts, as fully as the time allowed them will permit. Some useful employment may be provided for the boys, according as their age, strength, talents, or condition may require. Learning and labour, properly intermixed, greatly assist the ends of both,—a sound mind in a healthy body. girls will also be instructed in knitting, spinning, useful needlework, and in such domestic occupations as are suitable to their sex and station."
"Many children amongst us" he continues,
"sustain a grievous loss, by not being early and
properly made acquainted with the principles we
profess. For want of this instruction, they become
too easy a prey to the customs of the world, and
those habitudes which would be as a kind of
hedge about them, and protect them from many
temptations are thrown down, and all the allurements of vice and folly suffered to seduce their
affections to their ruin. When they cease to be
distinguished from others by their garb and deportment, they too often cease to be distinguished from
the world by their morals, and the rectitude of
their conduct."

"It has been alleged that it might have been much more advantageous to the Society, could three or more schools, on the like foundation, have been settled in divers parts of the nation. It may be thought that small schools are more easily managed than larger; that much would be saved in sending children backwards and forwards; that many parents would consent to send their children fifty miles, who would object to three or four times that distance; and in short, that each school being under the guidance of Friends, in the particular district, whose convenience it is to serve, its management would be inspected with more attention and success, than might be supposed to be the case with such an affair as the present. But let us look at the probability that such schools would be erected. Have we not seen the endeavours of the Yearly Meeting to obtain a much less encouragement than would suffice for erecting and

supporting a school capable of admitting forty or fifty children, rendered wholly abortive? For my own part, I am convinced by experience that it may be possible to draw the attention of Friends to one considerable object, and interest them in its support, whilst lesser ones will be apt, in a short time, to disappear." Dr. Fothergill evidently considered that the "seclusion" of the boarding school furnishes a moral protection to the child, which the day-school, even in connexion with the advantages of home, rarely affords. The opinion may be to some extent correct; yet we are not sure that his hopes of what was to be done through public schools, in the "guarded and religious education of youth," were not overrated.

Having thus traced the christian care of the Society of Friends in promoting the education of the children of its members, from its origin in the middle of the 17th century to the establishment of Ackworth School in 1779, we may return to inquire what preparations were making for the reception of the pupils, and for the government of the

infant institution.

Ackworth School, as stated in its "Fundamental Rules," was established by the Yearly Meeting of London, for the education of children, members of any Monthly or other Meeting of the Society of Friends in Great Britain, and whose parents are not in affluence. Its privileges do not extend to Ireland. Thus, to quote the words of Dr. Fothergill, "It may be esteemed the child of the community, and consequently claims its support." The preliminary arrangements were placed, for a short time, under the care of the Meeting for

Sufferings; but before the school was opened, a General Meeting was established by direction of the Yearly Meeting, consisting, as at present, of representatives from all the Quarterly Meetings which incline to appoint them. It was convened at Ackworth, the 29th of 7th month, 1779, and has been regularly held, with one or two omissions on account of illness in the school, from that date to the present time. Various important arrangements were then and there resolved upon, and the first Country Committee of twenty Friends was appointed; a similar committee had been previously appointed in London; and under the control of these two bodies (the London and Country Committees) the institution has been from that time conducted. At present the London Committee is constituted of twenty members and the Treasurer, and the Country Committee of twenty-eight mem-One-fourth of each board go off by rotation annually, and are ineligible for re-election the same year, their places being supplied by an appointment from Friends present at the General Meeting.\* Perhaps the Country Committee of Ackworth School stands as a body, unrivalled in disinterested devotedness to the object entrusted to its care. Its members of course receive no remuneration, and except that they board and lodge in the school during their session, each bears his own expenses. quarterly: the business which comes before them is multifarious and important, occupying the greater part of a day. At the half-yearly examinations,

<sup>•</sup> The London Committee is appointed at an adjournment of the General Meeting, held in London the day before the Yearly Meeting.

several of them spend four or five days at the school, engaged in a searching investigation into the progress of the children, and the general state of the institution. The examination into the state of the girls' schools and of the domestic economy of the family, is entrusted to a Women's Committee of eight members, appointed annually, and who meet every six months, at the same time as the Men's Committee.

Most of the members of the Country Committee reside in Yorkshire; but Lancashire, Durham, Westmoreland, Derbyshire, and even more distant counties are generally represented at them. The usual attendance is upwards of twenty; and the average distance each member travels, in going and returning, cannot be estimated at less than fifty or sixty miles. For many years after the establishment of the school the committees met monthly; but this arrangement being found cumbersome and needless, and the attendance small, it was concluded to meet quarterly, and to entrust a few subjects requiring immediate or more frequent attention, to a subcommittee of five Friends, resident in the neighbourhood, who meet monthly.

Subordinate to the committees, it was decided to place the general direction and management of the institution, under the care of a resident officer, to be called the Superintendent. Anxious to have the establishment conducted with a primary view to the religious benefit of its inmates, it was particularly desirable that its head should be a Friend of decided religious character and experience; and its founders were sanguine enough to hope that such a one might be met with, who would voluntarily and gra-

tuitously undertake the post of Superintendent and Treasurer; such a friend was found in John Hill. of London. Under a sense of religious duty, he and his wife freely offered their services to the institution, and were gladly accepted: the kind and christian benignity of this pious couple, then far advanced in life, as well as in general knowledge and understanding, had a very favourable influence on the character of the school in its early years. The wife of the Superintendent, a prudent and excellent matron, was mistress of the family, and assisted by a housekeeper, had the charge of the domestic affairs; the daughter, an intelligent, pious, and judicious young woman, was engaged as the principal directress of the girls' department; the boys were placed under the care of a young man, recommended by Dr. Fothergill as remarkably skilled in penmanship, and in other respects, qualified for the post. Joseph Donbavand, the young man referred to, continued in the service of the institution for upwards of forty years; and when bowed with age, he retired from the field of labour; the institution granted him an annuity of £50 during the remainder of his life, "in consideration," (we quote the honourable testimony of the Committee) "of the long and valuable services of our aged Friend."

The office of Superintendent and Treasurer continued to be discharged gratuitously for nearly thirty years:—first, by John Hill, who filled the post eleven years, and afterwards, by his successors, John Hipsley, and Dr. Jonathan Binns; some inconveniences were however found to attach to this arrangement, more especially as interfering

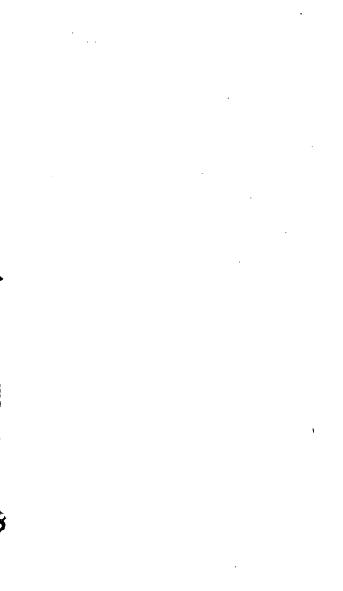
with that entire control, which it devolved on the Committees to exercise over so important an officer, and it was decided upon the appointment of our late and valued Friend, Robert Whitaker, that the Superintendent should, in common with those subordinate to him, be a salaried officer, and that the duties of Treasurer should be transferred to some Friend in London.\* Wilson Birkbeck, Sparkes Moline, and Samuel Gurney, the present Treasurer, have in succession, filled this important office.

Simultaneously with the labours of the first General Meeting and the Committees to establish judicious regulations for the general government of the new institution, active preparations were going forward within its walls for the reception of scholars. During the time the building had been unoccupied, its more perishable parts had become much dilapidated, and the premises generally had assumed a wild and desolate aspect: we are informed, that when the new occupants entered on possession, a

· Robert Whitaker discharged the duties of Superintendent. with great efficiency and satisfaction to the Society at large, from 1805 to 1834, when, on the decease of his wife, Hannah Whitaker, who had acted as housekeeper for thirty-three years, he resigned. Numerous testimonials of grateful affection were presented to him by his former pupils on his retirement. The General Meeting of 1838, was very numerously attended by young men of this class, and at its close, Robert Whitaker was invited to meet them in the Committee-room, where amidst a crowded audience, a handsome chronometer clock, in a mahogany case, was presented to him, having the following inscription engraved on a silver plate :- "Presented to Robert Whitaker, as a tribute of esteem, gratitude, and affection, by three hundred and forty young men, who were educated at Ackworth School during his Superintendence of that institution.-7th mo., 26th, 1838." R. W. was succeeded by Thomas Pumphrey, the present Superintendent.

fox and her cubs were found comfortably quartered in one of the apartments of the west wing: much therefore required attention; repairs were needed, furniture and bedding had to be provided, servants and officers to be engaged; and for all this, and much more, many thoughtful heads and active hands were busily employed ere the preparations for the reception of scholars were completed. At length the preliminary arrangements being sufficiently matured, on the 18th of the 10th mo. 1779, Ackworth School was opened, and Dorsetshire furnished the first pupils in the persons of Barton and Ann Gates of Poole; additional scholars slowly gathered together during the two following months, and about fifty were assembled before the close of the year. Of these by far the greater number were from distant counties; Lancashire had not furnished a single child, and even Yorkshire had not sent a dozen.

The climate of our country does not materially change; dark and drizzly days doubtless prevailed then, as now, at this cheerless season of the year: they were not, however, the days of railways and steam travelling, not even the days of good macadamized roads and well provided coaches; seventy years ago a journey from London to Yorkshire was a formidable affair, requiring days instead of hours for its achievement:—rough miry roads, clumsy ponderous vehicles, miserable horses, long detentions, close stowage;—these were a few of the annoyances to travellers in the good old times of our grandfathers; and when we think of the poor children, who, during the first winter of Ackworth School, were pursuing their weary journeys of two or three hundred miles, subjected to all the





ACKWORTH.
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miseries we have noted, our sympathy is powerfully excited: the imagination pictures, now a solitary urchin, now a somewhat larger group, (perhaps "a cargo," as a coach load from London was invariably termed,) arriving late some cold dark night at the little side gate of the school, for there was no front entrance then, and, laden with luggage, slowly wending their way between the two high walls which enclosed the narrow, prison-like passage to the porter's lodge; heavy thoughts perhaps, crowding upon them of long years of separation from the loved ones they have left behind, for vacations are a modern innovation; of letters from home, like angels' visits, few and far between, for penny postage had not been seen even in dim perspective; of strange faces, of hard tasks, and, peradventure, of harsh treatment. Arrived at the lodge, they enter the Great Passage, along which two or three oil lamps shed a gleam of dim light, making its darkness visible, and adding to its apparently interminable length, for gas had not, at that distant date. illuminated even the streets of the metropolis;\* thick massive walls, cold stone floors, vast empty halls, through which the echoes of every sound loudly reverberated, all looking chill, cheerless and desolate;—well might their little hearts misgive them, and many and fearful might well be their forebodings; but arrived at the terminus in the housekeeper's room, the scene brightens; within the

<sup>\*</sup> In 1837 a subscription, amounting to about £650, was raised in the Society, at the suggestion of two or three private individuals, and was presented to the Committee to erect Gasworks for the use of the school; the benefit, moral as well as social, from abundance of light, has been beyond calculation.

capacious grate blazes a real Yorkshire fire, a comfortable repast is spread before the hungry travellers, and, more cheering than all, are the kind, affectionate greetings of the venerable old man and his motherly partner, whom they are now to regard in loco parentis. A night's rest refreshes them, and childhood's sorrows are soon forgotten amidst the enjoyments of the play-ground, and the novelties

which meet them on every side.

Ackworth School of 1853 is not, even as a building, the Ackworth School of 1779. therefore be interesting to furnish a general outline of its original internal arrangements, noticing, as we proceed, the most important improvements which have since taken place. The approach, as already intimated, was by a long narrow footpath between high walls, on the right were the stables, and the well known stable yard; the bakehouse, and the brew-house; while the shoemaker's shop, and the porter's lodge, were the only erections on the left. Entering the main or centre building at one end, we pass along the Great Passage, 170 feet long, and 8 feet wide, with apartments on each side, 24 feet in width. Extending the whole length of the south side of this passage, and equal in height to two stories, on the north side, were the boys' and girls' dining-rooms, each 70 feet long, with the committeeroom, a spacious, noble, and richly ornamented apartment, between them. In 1842, the girls' dining-room was fitted up as a reading and lectureroom, and a platform was erected at one end, in front of which, the childrens' seats gradually rise to the further extremity of the room. It is thus well adapted for both seeing and hearing; and when

the whole of the family are collected together in this apartment, on First-day evenings, for Scripture reading, the scene is highly pleasing, and of deep

and thrilling interest.

We would not have it inferred, that because the dining-room of the girls was thus appropriated, they no longer needed ought but intellectual fare; another spacious refectory was provided for them, in immediate connection with their own Wing. On the other side of the central passage, were the Housekeeper's room, the well known Apothecary's shop, where many a nauseous potion is nightly administered to invalids; the Secretary's Office, now used as the Library; \* the apartment in which Joseph Donbavand first commenced teaching "the young idea how to shoot," and which is now divided into the Store-room and Little kitchen, (a room, notwithstanding its diminutive epithet, 24 by 16 feet,) the Superintendent's parlour, and other apartments. On the second floor, a similar other apartments. On the second noor, a similar passage runs the whole length, on the north side of which are lodging-rooms for officers and servants; while the boys' dormitories, which are spacious airy apartments, occupy the whole of the uppermost story. These apartments open into a passage, corresponding with those below, a large window at each end affording ample ventilation. Paraul the control but in a line with it tilation. Beyond the centre, but in a line with it, is the Great Kitchen, a room well meriting its distinctive name, both on account of its ample dimensions, and the extent of its daily culinary operations. Referring to the plate facing the title page, the

A commodious office for the Superintendent and his assistant was erected at an early period, adjoining the lodge.

Boys' wing is seen at the right of the main building. Soon after the opening of the school, four rooms, constituting the whole of the wing south of the pediment, were thrown into one large apartment, and fitted up as a meeting-house. This continued to be used as such, till 1848, when alterations were made in the boys' premises, on a very extended scale, and as these alterations are intimately associated with the present improved state of the boys' department, some detailed notice of their origin and progress is required. Much dissatisfaction had for some years been felt by the committee, with the general state of this portion of the school. The upper school-rooms were very low, (scarcely more than eight feet in height,) and did not admit of adequate ventilation, all of them were crowded, both upstairs and down, and being unprovided with class-rooms, there was no opportunity of occasionally relieving them; the only room appropriated to the boys in play-hours, was also, of necessity, used for teaching; it was always dirty, the air never in a state of healthy purity, and the school apparatus continually exposed to injury; the only apartment for the teachers, was the library, quite removed from the boys' premises; the habits and conduct of the children partook of the rough character of their accommodations; fever in various forms had repeatedly spread in the school. It was thus evident that the minds, manners, and health of the boys, all shared in the deterioration which was acknowledged. The confidence of parents was diminished; the complement of boys was not reached for several years, whilst the girls' school was continually full to overflowing. The

whole subject obtained the close attention of the committees, each defective point was carefully investigated, and the remedies to be applied were deliberately considered; it was at length concluded, that a considerably increased subdivision of classes was essential; -that an apartment for the teachers in the midst of the children ought to be provided;—that airy and well ventilated play-rooms were required, which should not be used as schoolrooms;—that the upper rooms should be raised four or five feet; -and that various other alterations promotive of health, decency, and orderly habits should be made. The surrender of the Meeting-house would enable the Committee to carry out their comprehensive plans, and it was therefore decided to appropriate the whole of the east Wing to the service of the boys, and to erect on the site of the old buildings, already referred to, a new and much larger Meeting-house, which the requirements of the increasing body of Friends in Ackworth demanded. But (all this, and much more, which alterations so extensive would certainly involve,) required an outlay of several thousand pounds. From whence could the money be obtained? It was scarcely probable that the society, which so liberally supported the institution with its annual contributions, would raise so large an amount. But the Committees were unanimous in the judgment that the course they were pursuing was right, and they were strong in the confidence that the Society would support them. They presented a view of the whole case in a lucid and energetic address, and they were not disappointed; Friends cheerfully and nobly responded; the subscriptions considerably exceeded £6,000, and all that was projected was satisfactorily completed; and it is not too much to say, that the most sanguine expectations of the liberal-minded

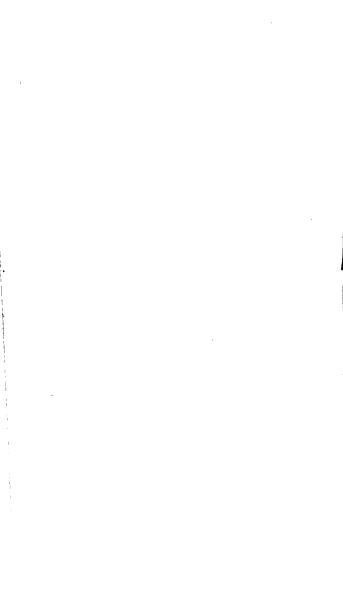
projectors were fully realized.

The new Meeting-house is a well built, lofty structure, capable, with its commodious galleries, of seating 800 or 900 persons; it is comfortably warmed and well ventilated, and is so arranged as to be accessible to the children at all seasons. under cover, by means of open colonnades, supported by plain, substantial Tuscan columns; the whole is built of free-stone from the school quarries. In front of the Meeting-house is a spacious area laid out in grass and shrubs, round which is a carriage road leading to the school, and forming the main entrance to the institution.\* A row of excellent dwelling-houses, for the use of the married teachers and officers of the school, was also erected at the same time.† At the back of the Boys' wing are the well-remembered "Shed" and "Shed court," with the "Gardens," separated from them by an iron palisade. Many are the happy hours spent in these localities; in summer the gardens are a source of great enjoyment and innocent recreation; and in wet weather the "shed," which is an open piazza, supported by a row of stone pillars, and extending the whole length of the Wing, furnishes shelter for numerous active groups at "long rope," "whip top," "marbles," &c. &c. It is surrounded by shelves for the play-boxes of the children, and is the place of general collecting for meals, &c. There is a curious story of olden time told of this "Shed."

<sup>\*</sup> See Plate.



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It having been resolved, (so our legend saith,) by the London and Country Committees that some provision of this kind should be made, the country architect drew his plans and elevation, with all the neatness for which his craft is noted, and doubtless described, in architectural phrase the columns, with shaft, base, and capital, and we know not what besides; this was sent to our good friends of London, who, considering that a homely structure of wood was quite adequate to the purpose, were startled at the extravagance of their northern colleagues, and sent down their architect by mail forthwith, (no unimportant journey in those days,) to teach Yorkshiremen moderation and thrift. The worthy citizen was however soon convinced of his mistake in supposing "there was nothing like wood," for he found, in a district abounding in good stone, that a structure, such as was proposed, could be erected at less cost and of greater durability than one of timber. He pocketed his plans and returned to town to report the result of his mission.

On the opposite side of the front area facing the boys' premises, is the wing appropriated to the girls: this also has had considerable alterations and additions made to it of late years. The remarkable benefit accruing to the boys from an increase in the number of their school-rooms, and the greater airiness of their apartments, excited the earnest wish amongst Friends at large that similar benefits should be conferred upon the girls. It was estimated that £2000 would be required to effect the needful improvements; the committees admitted the desirableness, but

hesitated to apply again so soon to the Society for funds. The demand out of doors however became urgent, and in 1851, on the recom-mendation of the General Meeting, a second ap-peal was made, the sum of £2700 was promptly and freely offered, and the object was in every respect satisfactorily attained; the Wing was raised about four feet, corresponding with the boys', and thus the lodging rooms, which occupy nearly the whole of the upper story, were greatly improved in comfort and ventilation; the number of schoolrooms and dormitories was increased, and excellent apartments for the governess and teachers were provided; a spacious Arcade for the girls to take exercise under cover, formed the basement story of the new building, and the area of the girls' back play-ground, and gardens was much enlarged.\* The balance of the sum thus liberally offered, was appropriated towards providing an adequate supply of water, from the want of which, the institution had often suffered greatly, and which the committees were at that juncture, endeavouring to obtain. lent spring had been discovered many years before on the institution's estate, about half a mile from the school, the water of which was conveyed by pipes across the valley, to an underground reservoir, from which it had daily to be pumped into an elevated cistern, and thence distributed over the premises; but it was far from adequate to meet the increasing wants of so large a family; although several large rain water reservoirs were also provided in several parts of the buildings, great inconvenience, almost

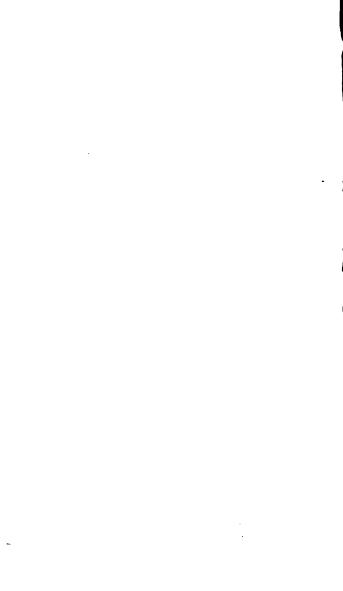
<sup>\*</sup> See Illustration.

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K. 明后主要打印車 既要完然的關係 Bokella dokunto

Girls May Ground & Gardens.





amounting to distress, was occasionally experienced. So serious was the scarcity produced by the unexampled drought, extending from the autumn of 1850 to that of 1852, (during which, the spring on which the institution depended, failed entirely,) that an attempt was made to obtain by boring, an unlimited supply. A suitable situation near the washing mill having been selected, a bore hole of eight inches in diameter was pierced through alternating strata, chiefly of sandstone and blue clay, the depth of 140 feet, when the object of anxious search was obtained in great abundance; the water rises to within eight or ten feet of the surface, and is thence raised by a beautiful four-horse high pressure steam-engine, to a large cast iron tank, resting on the main walls of the centre, over the Great Passage; this cistern is capable of holding 11,000 gallons, or about one week's supply for the establishment. The water is remarkably soft, and admirably adapted for washing and domestic purposes.

Allusion has been made to the play-grounds of the children, at the back of their respective premises; the whole of the area in front is also devoted

to the purposes of recreation.

"There the Play-grounds expand; there "the Gardens,"
"the Grove;"

Active boys on the gravel, blithe girls on the green;— On "the Flags," long devote to affection and love. May groups of fond brothers and sisters be seen."

This celebrated rendezvous, the only separation between the two play-grounds, is a promenade of great interest to Ackworth scholars; a kind of natural territory, on which male and female relations, to what degree of affinity we do not venture to assert, are

privileged to meet: and no stranger visits the school, especially on First-days, without being struck with the beauty and interest of the scene. The "flags" afford an excellent slide for the boys in winter, it being the practice to "pour down" on frosty nights, and in the morning a sheet of ice, extending the whole length of the play-ground, is ready for the bracing exercise of sliding, without danger of the adventurous youth being submerged in the water beneath, by the breaking of the crystal surface; nor are the "clogging"\* and skating more dangerous. A fall of snow has been a welcome sight to hundreds of Ackworth scholars :--when the ground is covered two or three inches thick, a singular scene follows, which it would puzzle a stranger to comprehend; all the boys are crowded together in a dense mass, which is seen slowly moving over the play-ground. They are "treading down," and thus preparing a level plain of snow, on which a scene of a most animated description is shortly to be enacted. Skaters of every grade are skimming the surface, or lying prostrate on the slippery ground, not being able to maintain their equilibrium;—the little ones are often seen yoked in teams drawing their older companions in rapid circles round the area;—sometimes a ponderous sledge heavily laden with a boisterous freight, affords rich enjoyment, and an extra half hour after breakfast is often granted for this exhilarating sport, and is always hailed with rapturous welcome. With what delight does manhood revert

<sup>\*</sup>The Ackworth Clogs are a kind of skate, with flat irons adapted for snow.

to the sports of youth; how does he love in imagination, again

"To chase the rolling circle's speed, Or urge the flying ball."

Each season is remembered as having its own peculiar forms of enjoyment, cricket, marbles, kites, the envy, and often the prize of the village boys. "stagareno," "prisoner's-jail," and the more boisterous games without number. But in enumerating Ackworth sports we must not forget the "skipping" for which it has long been preeminent. It is so graphically pourtrayed in a few lines, written some thirty years ago, by one of the scholars, then scarcely twelve years of age, that we shall introduce them to the reader, as a pleasing specimen of youthful metrical talent. Some other games having been previously described, he thus proceeds:—

"Aloof from these the dexterous skipper bounds, And lifts his slender form, and thrice revolves The cord, ere on his feet again he lights:— As if a friendly cloud sustained his frame, Or grosser atmosphere kindly upheld him:— And then he sinks, and rising gracefully, The self same round keeps on, until his blood Revolves a brisker current in his veins; With emulation now his visage glows; And as again he rises, and again, He feels the pride of conscious excellence Thrill in his heart, and on his fellows looks With smiles of skill superior."

But let not anxious parents imagine that play is the principal occupation of the children at Ackworth; they have sterner duties to discharge, and it may be interesting briefly to refer to them. We have already stated that the object of the school was to afford a plain, useful English education; to inculcate habits of industry, to train the children in the fear of the Lord, and in a knowledge of, and love for, the religious principles of Friends. It is evident that Dr. Fothergill included in his scheme the occupying a portion of the day in some manual employment; we have already quoted his sentiment, that "I compare and labour precently intermined that "Learning and labour properly intermixed greatly assist the ends of both, a sound mind in a healthy body;" and he further remarks, "some trades will gradually become necessary, tailors, shoemakers, and others; and if the bigger boys are occasionally to practice some of these occupations, it may tend to promote their application to learning."
We are not however aware that the teaching of any trades was ever introduced into the school; but the garden and farm\* afforded considerable scope for employing the boys in labour out of doors, and they were largely made use of. It is worthy of observation, that almost all the public schools of Friends in this country, started with the idea of combining labour with intellectual instruction, both with the view to profit, and to physical and mental health; but with a uniformity which is striking, not one of twenty years standing has continued to carry out the plan, beyond the employment of the children in the garden, and in those domestic offices by which they may be taught to wait upon themselves, and to save a multiplicity of servants. Various causes are stated to have contributed to this result; it has been said that in a country where labour is super-

<sup>\*</sup>The whole estate consists of about 270 acres, of which the greater part is let; only 122 acres being at present held by the Institution.

abundant, it is cheaper to pay able-bodied skilful men, than to employ untrained, and comparatively feeble children. It is further alleged that the difficulty is great in securing efficient oversight, and that unless diligent application is enforced, habits of idleness, rather than of industry, are engendered; moral evil is stated to have resulted to the children by associating with the labourers employed; other objections have been urged, which we pause not to discuss; whatever may have been the cause, the fact is clear, that by slow, but certain steps, in all our schools but two of modern establishment, the occupations of the field have yielded to those of the school-room; and we are not aware that any injurious effect upon the habits or characters of the children has resulted. It has been well remarked, that "The great object of education, to whatever class it is applied, is not to chisel the man to stand in a particular niche in the social edifice, but so to cultivate his powers, and teach him the right use of them, that he may be able to take that position, for which he is qualified by the gifts bestowed upon him by Divine Providence; and it is a great mistake to suppose that habits of patient industry in the humblest walks of life, are only to be taught at school by the use of the spade and the shuttle."

In the early days of the Institution, but little instruction was given beyond reading, spelling, writing and accounts, and the elements of grammar to the elder children. The girls were of course instructed in sewing and knitting; and, however strange it may sound to our ears, spinning was then a branch of female education, and the wheel and distaff were largely in use at Ackworth school

Limited as the range of instruction may appear, it was quite in advance of the common school education of the day, and the mode of its communication was vastly superior; for it ought to be gratefully recorded, that it was the earnest aim of the managers and teachers then, as it has been, we believe, in every period of the school's history, to teach thoroughly whatever they professed to teach: the founders of Ackworth School were men of comprehensive views; and in the committee, to whom the affairs of the infant establishment were intrusted, were more than a few who were like-minded; men of progress, men prepared to enlarge the course of instruction as the requirements of the society recommended. Throughout the history of the institution its managing Committees appear to have been generally in advance of society at large on the subject of education, and, as a necessary result, the curriculum has been steadily expanding: grammar was soon taught to the whole school; geography was introduced, and gradually extended; history at length became a branch of education taught; a considerable amount of general information and scientific knowledge was imparted; and in 1825, Latin was introduced, and taught to a small class of the most advanced boys; another class has been recently added. The older children, of both sexes. are now instructed in French, and the Mathematics are included within the educational range; some instruction is given in model drawing. Lectures on scientific and other subjects are delivered, both by the teachers and by persons occasionally engaged for the purpose. Besides the instruction given in school, considerable endeavours are used to direct

the leisure occupation of the children, and to promote self-improvement. Amongst the most efficient means adopted by the teachers to this end, is the establishment of voluntary associations. Few of our young men, who have left school within the last thirty years, but will call to remembrance "The Association for the Improvement of the Mind,"the most venerable of these juvenile societies: it was established in 1821, for encouraging the art of composition by Essay writing, and for other objects promotive of mental improvement. It has had its fluctuations: for many years it was upheld with great vigour, and at various periods since its birth, it has been a useful auxiliary to intellectual training: it possesses a small library and an interesting cabinet of natural curiosities. Next in importance, though of much later date, is "the Society of Arts," whose periodical exhibitions of Drawings, Maps, Penmanship, Turnery, &c. afford an agreeable interruption to the monotony of Ackworth life: the society's portfolio contains a large collection of good drawing copies, and it possesses several useful practical works on subjects connected with the Fine Arts. The workshop, furnished with lathes, benches and tools, is a valuable aid in its handicraft department, and absorbs much spare energy of active children, which would otherwise run wild. The Horticultural Society, for cherishing the love of gardening amongst the boys, and promoting the neat cultivation of their little plots of ground, and the Botanical Class have also contributed to the same object of moral and intellectual progress; and all have received kind support and encouragement from the numberless friends of the Institution.

Wehave thus far spoken only of the secular education; we must devote a few sentences to the Scriptural and religious instruction communicated. We believe there never was a period in the history of the institution, when it was not the endeavour of those who administered its affairs, to train up the children committed to their care, in the knowledge of our christian principles, in the true fear of God, and in the love of their Saviour and Redeemer; but we are free to confess, that in the earlier years of its existence, there was not that systematic attention paid to instruction in the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, which its great importance required. About the year 1816, circumstances occurred, which happily directed the attention of our late valued friend, J. J. Gurney, and through him of the Committee, and its officers, to the subject: steps were taken to remedy the defect; and at the present time few children are favoured with better instruction in the knowledge of the sacred volume, than those of the Society of Friends, in this and our other public schools.\* The whole school, whether of boys or girls, is divided into ten classes, regularly graduated from the least proficient to the most advanced pupils; the younger children are taught by apprentices, who are training as teachers, superintended and directed by an adult master or mistress. The older classes consist of eighteen to twenty children each, and are instructed in separate apartments, under their own respective teachers.

<sup>\*</sup> Catechisms of religious faith are not much in vogue at Ackworth, but an excellent little compilation, prepared by one of the teachers, entitled "Scripture References, &c." has long been used with great advantage.

This arrangement works well, and the advance of the children from class to class, which takes place two or three times a year, operates a healthy stimulus to industry and exertion. An ordinary school day, commencing at 7 A. M., with the intervals for meals and recreation. extending to 6 P.M., includes 71 hours for study, the weekly amount being about 38 hours. mittees enter into an examination of the state of the school half-yearly, and a more popular examination takes place before the Friends who assemble at the General Meeting. On these occasions the junior classes undergo a vivâ voce examination; and the proficiency of the older ones is ascertained by a series of printed questions, to which written answers are prepared by the children, without reference to books, maps, or assistance of any kind, thus rigidly testing the accuracy of their previously acquired knowledge on the subjects under review.

In connection with intellectual and religious instruction, it may be proper to introduce a brief notice of the Discipline of the school. This, too, in the lapse of years has undergone great modifications. In the days of our fathers and grandfathers, the rod, the cane, and the ferula, in other words the system of corporal chastisement, bore sway universally, and Ackworth participated in the general opinion of its necessity and excellence. But here also it has been progressive; that system has gradually fallen into desuetude, and milder modes of punishment, and other influences, better adapted to affect the heart and conscience, have succeeded. Great attention was paid by the Committee to the subject of moral discipline a few years ago. They saw that how in-

jurious soever the frequent and severe infliction of corporal punishment might be to the minds of both teachers and scholars, it was powerfully effective in the maintenance of a certain kind of order; and that, if it was to be dispensed with, and the children nevertheless kept in healthy subjection, their minds and morals properly watched over, evil principles and habits eradicated, and good ones instilled, it must be by increasing the number of masters and mistresses, and by exerting a much more efficient and continuous system of moral oversight. led to a large subdivision of the school classes, an increase of adult teachers, and the appointment of officers whose main business it should be to watch over the children in their play-hours, acquaint themselves with their individual characters, endeavour to give a right direction to their pursuits, and superintend the general arrangements of the school: the benefits of this plan have been obvious, in the greater progress and more orderly habits of the children, the diminished amount and milder character of the punishments, and the improved moral tone of the Besides these officers, there are six adult male, and four female, teachers, and four or five apprentices or pupil teachers of each sex. A system of numerical registration is adopted of both conduct and class-work, the report of which is sent home quarterly to the parents, the maximum number being reduced by acts of disorder, or by descending in the class: the prevailing penalties for misconduct, at present in use, are the lowering of this register, and confinement for shorter or longer periods in the school-Rewards or prizes for exemplary conduct, or good proficiency in learning were formerly distributed poriodically; but numerous evils attached to the system, and for many years it has been

entirely discarded.

In pursuing our subject thus far we have had to notice the numerous changes which, in seventy years, have taken place in a great variety of particulars, relating both to the internal and external circumstances of the school. Though quite amongst the minor points of interest, our sketch would be incomplete without some allusion to the dress of the children. Unlike "Christ's Hospital," and some kindred institutions, the rules of Ackworth School do not enforce an antiquated costume, by a law like the Medes and Persians that altereth not, neither has an absolute uniform been at any time adopted; the dress having always been subject to modification, as convenience or utility recommended. In the early days of the school its juvenile groups might have reminded us of the pictures of olden time, when the cocked hat, the long-tailed coat, the leather breeches, and the buckled shoe, were the dress even of boys:—the girls figured in white caps, the hair turned back under them or combed straight down upon the forehead, checked aprons with bibs, and white neck handkerchiefs, folded neatly over their stuff gowns in front. walking costume was a kind of hat, the pattern of which we are unable to indicate, and a long cloth cloak, with coloured mits reaching to the elbow. The present dress is in no way remarkable, and the variety prevailing through the school is much greater than formerly, from the liberty now granted for children to bring additional clothes after the vacation.

The mention of the word vacation reminds us of another innovation of late years. Intermingled with the many benefits which Ackworth School undoubtedly conferred on the youth of our society at its first establishment, there was at least one serious evil, which many were slow to perceive, and which, when perceived and acknowledged, was not easy to remedy. For the first fifty years of its existence, a child having once entered its cloister walls, was not permitted to leave them till the end of his term, however extended that might be: and many instances have occurred of children being four or five, and some even seven years, without seeing home. Parents and friends might visit them and correspond by letter, but neither travelling nor postal arrangements were those of the present day. Scholars were sent from the most distant parts of the Island, and not a few never saw the homes of their childhood again. We have heard of a poor man in Cornwall, the father of a large family, anxious to obtain for his children a better education than his own county provided, sending them one after another to the excellent Yorkshire Institution; and their school days being over, they found amongst the busy manufacturing population of the North of England, places as apprentices. The journey was too formidable for the poor father to undertake, and he used mournfully to say, "that in parting with his children to school, he parted with them for life." Such a necessity cannot be justified; a remedy was unquestionably needed:—the cultivation of the home affections is a highly important part of a sound moral and religious education: the world, (and the boarding-school is an epitome of the

world.) hardens the tender sensibilities sufficiently early, and it is well to cherish, even to manhood, all those softening influences which gather round the domestic hearth:—the tender christian counsels of parental anxiety, listened to with tearful eye by the contrite child:—the gentle endearments of a sister's love, cordially reciprocated by the boisterous, but warm-hearted, brother :-- the bond of common interest and congenial pursuits which bind a family together: -that beautiful, domestic harmony, which was in the view of the apostle, when he exhorted the early believers to "be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love:"-how great is the power of them all to shed a hallowed and preserving influence, around those who are treading the slippery paths of youth, and to mould or modify the character of the future man. Then surely they ought not to be rudely or rashly broken: hence the importance, in the first step of that separation to which most families are eventually subjected, of affording those temporary breaks of joyous and life-long remembrance, which are furnished by vacations. It was not till within the last twenty years that vacations were introduced; at first cautiously, but no evils resulting from them, they were soon warmly promoted by the Committees, in cases where children had been two years at school; and as the facilities of travelling increased, and the expenses were diminished by the extension of railways, the question of a general vacation was entertained and eventually adopted. As the time of the first vacation drew near, many were the joyous anticipations, both of parents and children, and slowly did the wheels of time appear to many a young heart to revolve, ere the happy day

arrived. But at length it did arrive, an epoch in the history of the institution, when its schools, which had been in active operation with unbroken continuity for nearly seventy years, were closed, and its spacious halls and corridors no longer echoed the noisy mirth of their youthful occupants, but were silent even to desolation. Who but those that witnessed the animated scene of the departure, can picture its thrilling and overpowering character? Situated several miles from the nearest railway, it was needful to call into requisition all the vehicles at disposal; and five large tilted wagons, fitted up for the occasion, each containing thirty or forty lighthearted children, made more than a trip apiece to one or other of the neighbouring stations. The morning was favourable; many visitors assembled to witness the novelty; the children in their best, each bearing his own modicum of luggage, took their places in the wagons, nothing loath to be tightly stowed; and before eight o'clock the first party of 100 started amidst loud and reiterated cheers, which were heartily re-echoed by the joyous freight of the ponderous, heavily laden vehicles. Ere another hour had elapsed, a second hundred were thus disposed of, and by one o'clock the busy scene of the morning concluded by clearing out the last juvenile occupant of yesterday's crowded mansion.\* The first vacation was experimental; what were the results? that some benefit to both teachers and scholars flowed from so important and

<sup>\*</sup> To assist those parents to whom the expense of conveyance might be inconvenient, an allowance of one penny per mile each way is granted by the Institution, provided the children return punctually on the day the school re-opens.

well considered a change, it is fair to presume; but what were the counterbalancing disadvantages? unmingled good does not often attach to human arrangements. We have made enquiry of those who have narrowly watched the working of the system, and their testimony is uniform, that no inconvenience whatever, worthy of note, has resulted; that it is, as nearly as possible, an unqualified benefit.

Allusion was made in an early page, to the sickliness of the little foundlings, and to the contrast which the blooming health of the Ackworth School boys presented, moving to tears one of the governors of the old Hospital. It may be natural to enquire, has the first promise of the Institution in regard to health been realized? brief notice of the sanatary history of the school will furnish a satisfactory reply. At the close of last year, the 74th of its existence, the number of scholars who had entered its walls was 7385, being almost exactly an average of 100 per annum, and as the complement, which has been generally maintained, is nearly 300, the figures shew an average continuance for each child of three years at school:—during the same period the total deaths have been 76, or one in 300 per annum from the day of opening: of these deaths, 3 have been from accidents, 4 from small pox, (in the first ten years of the establishment,) and 3 from measles, leaving 66 from all other diseases, or just twice the number of deaths, which occurred in a single quarter of a year at one period of the Foundling Hospital, during the prevalence of an epidemic. But Ackworth School has not been without its severe

visitations: in the spring of 1803, scarlet fever of a very malignant character broke out, and for six or seven months extended its ravages far and wide; about 200 inmates of the family were affected by it, and 7 of the children died: in 1824 a low fever of typhoid character prevailed for several months; about 70 of the scholars were ill, and one teacher and two children were removed by death; an awful visitation of typhus appeared in the spring of 1828, and was not extinct till the following autumn, affecting with greater or less severity nearly 200 children and adults; but only 3 girls and 2 adult members of the family fell victims to it. Again, in the winter of 1830 and 1831. fever similar in kind, but milder in form, was introduced by a fresh scholar, and spread extensively, upwards of 200 being affected by it, and 3 children died. Lastly, in the autumn of 1841. Scarlet Fever, which was very prevalent in different parts of the country, visited the school; between 60 and 70 children were more or less affected: and though, with few exceptions, the disorder was mild. 3 children died of the complaint, or of disease consequent upon it. Beside these severe visitations. mild scarlatina has occasionally prevailed to some extent, but never with fatal results.

A salaried apothecary visits the school regularly twice a week, and more frequently if required; and further medical advice is obtained in critical cases: great attention has heen paid by the Committees, to subjects affecting the sanatary condition of the Institution; and much has been done by drainage and ventilation to improve the healthiness of the premises. An excellent suite of rooms was

built over the Great Kitchen in 1824, and appropriated as Nurseries for the sick; they communicate with each other, and admit of entire separation from the main building, should the appearance of infectious disorders at any time render it needful.\* A plunge Bath stands about half a mile from the school on the estate of the Institution, and is used daily in summer; the water is chalybeate and very cold; bathing is a source of great enjoyment to most of the scholars, but is not compulsory to those who dislike it.

The dietary of the children has been another subject claiming the anxious care of the Committee. The Ackworth porridge, which furnishes the breakfast, has long been noted for its excellence:—the dinner consists of boiled or roasted meat, hot, cold, or hashed, with bread and vegetables of various kinds, potatoes of course forming the staple; fruit or farinaceous puddings, or fruit pies. The benefit has been obvious of providing a varied meal daily, that is, not as formerly, entirely of meat and vegetables one day, and pie or pudding exclusively another. The suppers are generally bread and cold milk, varied occasionally with bread and butter, cheese, or treacle. Adopting the sentiment of the old Roman poet, that "Water is best," water has been exclusively, for the last seventeen years, the beverage of the children: formerly they were supplied with a small portion of weak beer daily, and malt liquor was generally drank in the family; it is now entirely disused, except when ordered by

<sup>\*</sup> They are seen over the Girls' Colonnade, in the general front view of the School.

the Doctor. It appears by the reports, which are printed annually, that forty or fifty years ago, the cost of malt and hops averaged from £120 to £180 per annum; now the few shillings expended in stimulants of all kinds are correctly placed under the head of "apothecary and drugs." The brew-house having been taken down at the time of the recent alterations, its site was most appropriately converted into a water tank. Without entering upon the benefits of Total Abstinence as a general question, which would be out of place here, we may not unsuitably remark, that for children it is undoubtedly good: we cannot too seriously reflect on the force of early habit and early associations. beer, poor as it was, was regarded as something better than water, as a kind of treat at the end of dinner; and by the influence of this association it was esteemed as something to be desired; it was loved, and became, it is too probable, in some instances, (we hope but few,) the germ of an ininveterate drinking habit.

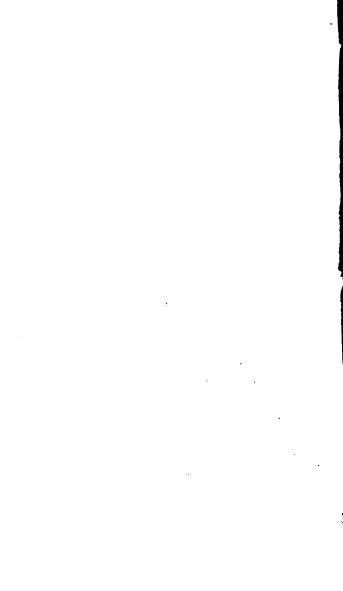
Till within the last ten or twelve years, an inn near the school, and the property of the institution, was licensed for the sale of beer, wine, and spirits; but the irregularities and disorderly proceedings inevitably attendant on the retailing of intoxicating drinks, induced the Committees to discontinue the license; as a boarding and posting house, it has been enlarged and improved, and affords comfortable accommodation to the parents and friends of the children, and others who incline to patronize it. At the General Meetings in the 7th month, at which several hundred Friends are often present from most parts of the kingdom, the



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boys' dining-room is lent to the landlord for the accommodation of Friends; and it is not unusual - for a party of 150 to dine together in this spacious refectory. These occasions, which are principally for the examination of the children, and the general inspection of the school, are times of great interest and enjoyment, not only to the children and family, but to the villagers generally; -- most of the more respectable of the cottagers furbish up their humble apartments, and provide lodging for the visitors. Many are the cheerful greetings and recognitions of old schoolfellows at these anniversaries, and very picturesque are the scenes, which the playground, and other parts of the premises afford, in the interval of the examinations, and meetings for worship, with which the business begins, and concludes: young men and maidens, old men and children, mingle together in joyous groups, and when the weather is fine, furnish a picture worthy of an artist's pencil.

The institution's financial statement, which is presented to an adjournment of this General Meeting, held in London, and is extensively circulated with the annual report, by the authority of the Yearly Meeting, enters so minutely into the details of income and expenditure, that it will only be necessary to refer to these documents; and, for those who may not have access to them, to state a few of the leading particulars.—The school is supported by the income from its invested property in land, houses, railways, and the public funds, upwards of £500; from annual subscriptions, about £1000; from legacies, averaging from £400 to £500; the profits of the farm, which of course are very uncertain, and the

payments of the children, which last year reached The original charge per child for board, education and clothing, was fixed by the London Yearly Meeting at £8 8s.; it was afterwards advanced to 10 Guineas, and after a few years to 12 Guineas; in 1823 it was reduced to £10, at which rate it continued till 1848. For several years in succession about this period, the expenditure exceeded the income to a large amount, and a debt of between £3,000 and £4,000 was accumulated.\* To prevent the recurrence of circumstances so embarrassing, some altered arrangements were required, and it was eventually decided to introduce a scale of charges graduated according to the circumstances of the parents. The terms were £10, £15, and £20; since advanced to £12, £16. and £21; it is referred to the parents to determine in which class their child shall be placed; it being laid down as an absolute rule, which is strictly adhered to, that the variation of charge shall in no degree affect the treatment of the child, or the character of the instruction given. Whatever the payment, all the scholars are on an equality in the school; those who have the charge of their tuition being in fact ignorant of the pecuniary class in which they stand. The system works satisfactorily, and yields a considerable accession to the income of the school. The annual expenditure is about £6,500, and the average cost per child, exclusive of any charge for rent or interest, rather exceeds 20 guineas. last year's average is thus subdivided:

<sup>\*</sup> In 1850, a munificent legacy of £1000 enabled the Committee to liquidate a portion of this debt, but a large balance still remains unpaid.

•	£.	S.	ď.
Clothing	2	12	8
Provisions and Household Expenses	8	19	11
Salaries and Wages	6	2	2
Furniture, Repairs, Taxes, Stationery, &c.	3	12	2
£	21	6	11

To those who are curious in statistics, the analysis of the annual cash accounts, would afford much valuable information; but to the general reader it would not be interesting, and would be inappropriate to our present purpose. In an institution, so largely dependent on voluntary support, pecuniary fluctuations must be anticipated; but we have no misgivings, that so long as Ackworth School faithfully, efficiently, and with due regard to economy, imparts, in conformity with its fundamental rule, to the children of Friends not in affluence, a sound, literary, moral, and religious education, in accordance with our christian principles, so long will it possess the confidence, and be adequately upheld by the pecuniary contributions of the Society. well-sustained liberality, which has been accorded to it from its origin to the present day, is a grateful subject of reflection in regard to the past, and an encouraging guarantee in regard to the future.

Our purpose of presenting to the reader a brief historical sketch of Ackworth School is now accomplished;—however imperfectly we may have succeeded in conveying the impression to others, the conviction has strengthened in our own minds, as we have proceeded, that whether we contemplate the institution in reference to the benevolence of its object, the energy with which that object was originally carried out, the excellence of its regula-

tions and internal economy, the soundness of the instruction imparted, the moral and religious care exercised, or the liberality with which it has been invariably supported, it is a monument worthy of the good sense, the practical wisdom, and the christian character of the Society of Friends. doubt whether its enlightened Founders were not unduly sanguine in regard to the benefits the institution, as a boarding school, was calculated to produce, and whether they did not over estimate the value of seclusion from evils without; yet when we recur to our own experience, or extend our observation to the Society, which includes amongst its upright pillars, and devoted labourers, so many who were once inmates of Ackworth School, we cannot hesitate to believe, that He, in whose fear it was established, and whose blessing has been, from age to age, so earnestly sought on its behalf, has mercifully condescended to regard with favour both the institution and the youthful objects of its care; and though fondly cherished hopes in regard to many, have doubtless been disappointed, and many a fair bud of promise has never matured its fruit, yet we feel assured that there are multitudes, who, in the remembrance of the benefits they have received at Ackworth School, are prepared, with gratitude and reverence, "to rise up, and call it blessed." May the youth who have just risen, or are now rising into manhood, duly appreciate their privileges in having been Ackworth scholars; and may they manifest their love and gratitude for the institution, which during some of the years of their childhood, extended over them its fostering wings, and for that society which provided so excellent a





seminary, by liberally supporting the one according to their ability, and faithfully maintaining the Christian principles of the other, in their length, breadth, and fulness.

### Che Flounders' Institute.

Although the Flounders' Institute has no absolute connection with Ackworth School, and is under the government of an entirely distinct body, the objects of the two institutions are so closely interwoven, that it suitably claims some notice in these pages:—This Institution, which is for the training of young men as teachers among Friends, owes its name to Benjamin Flounders, of Yarm, to whose appropriation, or gift, of £40,000 in the 3 per cents, it is indebted for its pecuniary position. Benjamin Flounders was born and educated as a member of the Society of Friends; he left this communion however soon after receiving a large accession of property from an aged uncle, whose wish that he should so appropriate a portion of it, in case of having no descendants, he well knew; and which, in his declining years came so forcibly before him, as to lead to its cheerful and effectual carrying out, not very long before his death, in 1846. The trustees, to whose care this important, object was committed, not having power to pur-

chase land with the principal sum, and having endeavoured to hire premises in Ackworth or its neighbourhood without success, one of their number, the late Joseph John Gurney, guaranteed the cost of the land, on which a building for the purpose might be erected; and in the course of a visit to Ackworth a few weeks before his death, selected the present site: it is in an elevated position, about half a mile S. W. of the school, and in full view of it, so that, to use his own felicitous expression, "the two kindred institutions might look pleasantly upon each other;" the building rapidly rose, and in the summer of 1848 was opened by the reception of students; being placed under the charge of Isaac Brown, as principal, and John Willis, Ph. D., as his assistant. The admission and continuance of the students is vested in the trustees, and is confined to such as are members, or in profession with Friends, and the institution is devoted exclusively to supplying the educational wants of the Society: the acknowledged complement of students is twelve, but there are at present fourteen in the Institute: thirty-one young men have been already admitted into it, of whom five had been previously engaged in business, and fifteen in teaching, the remainder being youths preparing themselves for the profession; of those who have left, fifteen have found situations in nine of the schools of the Society, one is engaged in private teaching, and two are deceased. The course of instruction pursued at the Institute, in accordance with the deed of trust, includes "Ancient and Modern Languages, Mathematics, and Natural Philosophy in all its parts," to these have been added some subjects intended

to meet the more recent requirements of education, and others bearing upon what more immediately concerns our own Society. The institution is carried on by the Principal and his Assistant, aided occasionally by some of the older students; and half-yearly examinations take place to test the proficiency of the whole. The Flounders' Institute is but in its infancy, but it has already done good service in improving the qualification of our teachers, and it appears likely to occupy an important position in the educational establishments of the Society of Friends.

THE END.

James Hunton, Printer, 15 Low Ousegate, York.

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#### Terms :

		d.			•	8.	d.	
Breakfast	0	8	1	Tea		0	8	
Dinner	1	6	1	Bed		1	0	

Friends visiting Ackworth may be met at any of the Railway Stations, by applying to W. S.

